(d) whether cotton stocks of private parties were also destroyed by fire during the said period; and

(e) if so, what are their details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The Cotton Corporation of India does not operate in Maharashtra under the cotton monopoly procurement scheme. However, the Corporation brings bales to Bombay from up country branches for export purposes and there is no fire claim in respect of such bales.

So far as the cotton under the control of Cotton monopoly Procurement Ssheme is concerned, the information is as under:

1,41,871 quintals and 9,673 bales of cotton have been destroyed in fire till 30-4-1986 in 165 five incidents in Maharashtra.

(b) Out of 165 fire incidents 124 incidents occured in Ginning and Pressing units due to friction in machines. The other fire incidents occured due to short circuits|electrical sparking etc. The loss on account of above fires is about Rs. 7.30 crores.

(c) All stocks of cotton were insured and 165 claims have been lodged with the Insurance Companies.

(d) In Maharashtra no private parties are allow to trade in cotton business.

(e) Does not arise.

Quota of Peacock tail feathers

1164. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations were made to Government to allocate quota of peacock tail feathers to the extent of 90 per cent of annual ceiling to established exporters and balance 10 per cent to new-comers;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) what is the reason for announcing the same old policy for 1986-87 for allocating only 40 per cent of ceiling to established exporters and what are the reasons for rejecting the plea for 90 per cent quota to established exporters who fetch maximum foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) Representations have been received for higher allocation of quota of peacock tail feathers to established exporters. The export ceiling of this item is decided on the basis of recommendations of the Department of Forests and Wildlife. The proposal for enhancing the export ceiling for1986-87 is under consideration of that Department Pending final recommendation of the Department of Forests and Wildlife, last years' quata has been repeated to different categories of exporters.

Income-Tax relief on leave encashment Salary to Bank Employees

1165 SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Circular No. 431, printed under letter P. No. 174|43|82-IT(AI), dated 12th September, 1985 income-tax relief is granted on the profit accruing to an emplovee due to leave encashment salary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether employees of nationalised banks in Bhiwani (Haryana) are being given this relief by the Income Tax Office in the District; If so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what steps Government are taking to direct the Income Tax Office, Bhiwani (Haryana) to provide relief in income tax to bank employees in the District?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Circular No. 431 dated 12the September, 1985 clarifies that relief under section 89(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961

is admissible in respect of amounts received on encashment of leave salary while in service. This relief is granted by the Income-tax Officer on an application made to him in this behalf.

(c) No such case has come to the notice of the Income-tax Officer, Bhaiwani.

Foreign tourists

1166. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tourists from each country who visited India during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) what steps are being taken to boost tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The information is given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII Annexure No. 31].

(b) The steps initiated to increase the inflow of foreign tourists to India include reorientation of publicity campaigns giving emphasis on consumer advertising stepping up of public relations with overseas media agencies, tour operators and travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, development of infrastructural facilities and improvement of transport systems including increasing airlines capacity and permitting tourist charters.

Letters received from Members of Parliament in the Central Board of Direct Taxes

1167. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters received from Members of Parliament|VIPs, which are still pending in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (i) upto 3 months; (ii) 3—6 months; (iii) 6—12 months; and (iv) more than one year old, with brief subjects, stage of each letter; and

(b) by when these letters are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.1985 there were 38 VIP|MP references pending in the Central Board of Direct Taxes. During 1.4.1985 to 15.4.86, 595 references were received. Out of these 548 references were disposed of in the corresponding period, thus leaving pendency of such references to 85 as on 16.4.1986. Out of them, 77 letters were pending upto 3 months, 5 letters were pending between 3—6 months, 3 letters were pending between 6—12 months and no letter was pending for more than one year.

These letters pertained to different subjects concerning Direct Tax Laws and their implementation. In view of the complexities involved in each such case, it is difficult to lay any target date for their disposal. However, high priority is attached to the disposal of such letters.

100 per cent export oriented gold jewellery manufacturing complex

1168. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme for 100 per cent export oriented gold jewellery manufacturing complex has failed to take off and that not a single unit has come up any where in the country;

(b) if so, when the scheme for setting up 100 per cent export oriented gold jewellery manufacturing complexes was first mooted and approved;

(c) what are the major reasons for the non-implementation of the scheme; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The scheme for setting up special export oriented complexes for manufature of gold